A.—The Government are investigating the possibility of improving facilities at the port of Mangalore. The exact method by which such improvement should be effected has not been decided.

Railways.

Location of a pumping station near Vaniyambadi town by Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.

442 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur W. VIJAYARAGAVA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company are contemplating to locate a pumping station in the bed of the Palar river near Kodaiyangi village near Vaniyambadi town in North Arcot for taking water to Jalarpet and other railway stations;

(*b*) whether such pumping will not adversely affect the irrigation of lands now being irrigated by river channels on and about the bunds of the river on either side, by drawing off the underground flow of water of the existing irrigation channels;

(*c*) whether the Government were consulted by the Railway Company on this matter, and, if not, whether the Government will call for information;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that on a former occasion, some 15 years ago, a similar proposal on the part of the Vaniyambadi municipality to put up a pumping station at the site in question had to be given up owing to the opposition and protest of the above land-owners;

(*e*) whether the Government have received memorials from the ryots of the villages likely to be affected by the proposed pumping, protesting against the proposal; and

(*f*) if the Government are not in possession of information now, whether they will call for information on the matters stated above and take necessary action before it is too late?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 14.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Jails.

Settlement of Mappilla prisoners in the Andamans.

* 442-A. *Q.*—Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a number of Mappilla prisoners have agreed or have been persuaded to migrate to Andamans;

(*b*) if so, how many; and how many of them have already been taken to the Andamans;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that a batch of these prisoners is to be taken very shortly and if so what is the strength of the batch;

(*d*) what are the special reasons that induced these prisoners to agree to migrate to the Andamans;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that Government are doing a propaganda among Mappilla prisoners to persuade them to go to Andamans; if so, whether they have placed the Jails Committee Report of Sir Alexander Cardew before the prisoners;

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(*f*) whether it is a fact that the Government officials in Malabar are carrying on vigorous propaganda to induce the families of these prisoners to accompany them to the Andamans;

(*g*) whether it is a fact that a number of these prisoners are to be taken to Malabar shortly to persuade their families to accompany them;

(*h*) whether a batch of Mappilla prisoners have been brought to Madras to be embarked to Andamans;

(*i*) how many Mappilla free women and children have up till now been sent to the Andamans; and

(*j*) whether Government have received any report about their condition in Andamans?

A.—(*a*) Two hundred and seventy-eight Mappilla prisoners in the Alipuram Jail have agreed to proceed to the Andamans with their families. None have been *persuaded* to migrate.

(*b*) Two hundred and seventy-eight; none of them have gone to the Andamans yet.

(*c*) One convict with the members of his family—four in all—will sail shortly.

(*d*) Most of the prisoners are related to or friends of prisoners already in the Andamans who have settled down as self-supporters. These convicts prefer to settle down with their families in the Andamans more or less like free men on holdings of their own in villages composed of Mappillas or on forest or other work.

(*e*) The Government do not do any propaganda work in this respect. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the supplementary answers to question No. 653 given by the hon. Sir Arthur Knapp at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 26th March 1925 which give information which the hon. Member seeks and in which reference is made *inter alia* to the views expressed by the Indian Jails Committee on conditions that were found in 1919.

(*f*) No. Facilities are given to the convict to ascertain the wishes of the members of their families about settling down in the Andamans.

(*g*) There is no such proposal.

(*h*) Yes.

(*i*) The number of women and children who belong to the families of convicts already in the Andamans and who have proceeded to join them in the years 1923 to 1925 is about 500.

(*j*) Yes; the Government have received a report on conditions in the Andamans. The hon. Member's attention is invited to two notes by Major Barker which are being placed on the table.

Criminal Justice.

Free fishing in the Bhavani river.

*443 *Q.*—Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that free fishing is prohibited by the Fisheries Inspector of Nilgiris in the Bhavani river flowing through the Attapadi valley in Malabar where the river is admittedly a private property; if so, under what authority it is done;